

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Community Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

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### 2014 Harford County Symposium on Drug Prevention, Intervention and Treatment

(Bel Air, MD) - - On Thursday, June 26, 2014, the Harford County Department of Community Services, Office of Drug Control Policy held its Annual Symposium on Drug Prevention, Intervention and Treatment at Bel Air High School in Bel Air. Two hundred and sixty people attended the event.

This year's theme, "*Where We are Now*", provided information on current issues related to addiction, co-occurring mental health issues, abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, internet safety, sexting, the impact of addiction on the family, and the psychological symptoms of returning service members.

This year's Symposium featured keynote speaker Joe Ehrmann, Coach for America. He shared his 13 years of experience as a professional football player for the Baltimore Colts and as cofounder of the Ronald McDonald House to help address issues of poverty, systemic racism and social justice. He explained how a game plan for life can help troubled youth transform their lives into one that is productive and rewarding.

According to one participant, "Joe shed new light on how boys think they should act as men and how young girls view themselves as women". Another participant stated, "The vendors showed me how many resources are available in the county to help deal with issues related to mental health and addiction issues."

Parents, teenagers, caregivers, social workers, probation officers, nurses, educators, and the general public were able to expand their knowledge on issues such as underage drinking, working with the domestic violence victims, as well as the latest trends in drug and alcohol abuse, intervention, prevention and treatment. Program organizers authorized Continuing Education Credits in the field of Prevention, Addictions, and Social Work for the training.

FACE-IT presented the 2014 Symposium in partnership with the Harford County Department of Community Services' Office of Drug Control Policy, Harford County Public Schools, Father Martin's Ashley, Gaudenzia, Inc, the Maryland State Police; and Stella Maris. For more information on drug control programs and trainings in Harford County, contact the Harford County Department of Community Services' Office of Drug Control Policy at 410-638-3333 or [www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/drugcontrol](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/drugcontrol).

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*"Preserving Harford's past. Promoting Harford's future."*